FDI in Industrial Sector

478. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment in the Industrial Sector; and

(b) if so, the areas in which FDI is likely to be introduced along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) FDI is already permitted for all industrial activities.

Tea Plantation

479. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take steps to open the work relating to the tea plantation which is closed; and

(b) the steps Government intend to take to ensure employment to the tea estate workers and to disburse the arrears of wages, bonus and other benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government has appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. These Committees are expected to submit their reports by March, 2003. State Governments are primarily responsible for the administrations and

implementation of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, which provides for the welfare of labour and regulates the conditions of work in tea plantations.

Imposition of non-tariff barriers by European Commissions

480. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received a notice from the European Commission with regard to its imposition of non-tariff barriers to import over 100 products, including the list of sensitive commodities;

(b) if so, when such a notice was received in the Ministry; and

(c) the action the Ministry has taken on the notice, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) On 23 December, 2002 the European Communities requested consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisation regarding import restrictions maintained by India on more than 100 products under its Export and Import Policy 2002-2007. These import restrictions are maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994. Subsequently India and the European Communities have held consultations in this case on 17th February 2003 under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO.

Export and Import

481. SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export value in US dollars for the last three years with percentage share of each country, commodity-wise and country-wise;

(b) the import value in US dollars for the last three years with percentage share of each country, commodity-wise and country-wise;

(c) the share in global trade for the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the plan to increase India's share to at least one percent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE